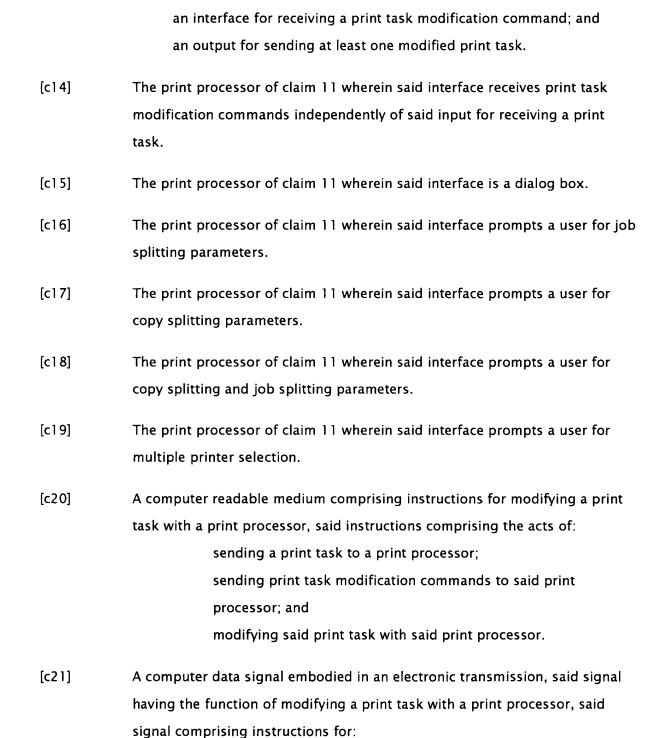


Claims

[c1]	A method for distributing a print task among multiple printers, said method comprising the acts of:
	sending a print task to a print processor; sending print task modification commands to said print processor; and
	modifying said print task with said print processor.
[c2]	The method of claim 1 wherein said sending said print task modification commands comprises reading command data from a configuration file.
[c3]	The method of claim 1 further comprising the act of prompting a user for print task modification commands.
[c4]	The method of claim 2 wherein said prompting is print-processor based.
[c5]	The method of claim 2 wherein said prompting is driver-based.
[c6]	The method of claim 1 wherein said modification comprises dividing said print task into multiple modified print tasks.
[c7]	The method of claim 5 wherein said dividing comprises job splitting.
[c8]	The method of claim 5 wherein said dividing comprises copy splitting.
[c9]	The method of claim 5 wherein said dividing comprises a combination of copy splitting and job splitting.
[c10]	The method of claim 1 wherein said modifying comprises dividing said print task into multiple modified print tasks and further comprising the act of distributing said multiple modified print tasks to a plurality of printing devices.
[c11]	The method of claim 1 wherein said print task is a printer-ready file.
[c12]	The method of claim 1 wherein said print task is journalled printer data.
[c13]	A print processor capable of modifying a print task according to print task modification commands, said print processor comprising:

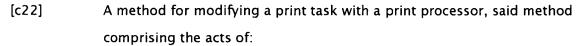


sending a print task to a print processor;

modifying said print task with said print processor.

sending print task modification commands to said print processor; and

an input for receiving a print task;



sending a print task to a driver;
prompting a user for print task modification commands;
creating a spool file for said print task;
sending said spool file to a spooler;
spooling said spool file to a modifying print processor;
modifying said print task according to said print task modification
commands thereby creating at least one modified print task;
sending said at least one modified print task to at least one printing
device.

[c23] A method for distributing a print task to multiple printing devices with a print processor, said method comprising the acts of:

generating a print task from an application, said print task being configured for printing on a single printing device; invoking a print driver for combining device initialization and environment data for said single printing device and print task data from said application and creating a spool file; obtaining cluster printing data;

obtaining cluster printing data,

sending said spool file to a spooler;

spooling said spool file to a cluster-enabled print processor (CPP); modifying said spool file data with said CPP to cause said print task to be distributed to multiple printing devices thereby creating at least one modified print task; and

sending said at least one modified print task to said multiple printing devices.